

states) within this state. They are, therefore, decidedly of opinion, that the attempt to abolish lotteries, would fail to accomplish the end proposed; that is, to prevent the dealing in tickets, by citizens of the state. This being, in their opinion, the situation in which we are placed, whilst tickets are to be had almost all around us, they think nothing would be gained, even in a moral point of view, by an attempt at abolition; on the contrary, it is their opinion, that the evil would be increased, as they have no doubt, that it has now done *heavily*, and that it will do so *more*. They say, and perhaps with some reason, that if a well regulated system existed, (and which have been prevented by our state system) would then be practised here. The committee taking this view of the subject, do not think it necessary to go into a discussion of the relative morality or immorality of lotteries, as compared with speculations of other kinds; when it shall become practicable, from the *nonexistence* (and nothing else can make it so) of lottery tickets in our vicinage, to prevent all dealing of that kind in our state, it will then be time enough to take up that subject; at present, they think it would be an useless waste of time to go into its consideration.

Your committee would refer to the fact, which they believe is notorious, that when laws were in existence in this State, denouncing severe penalties against all dealers in foreign lottery tickets, that these laws were violated daily; and they are induced to believe, that those who violated them, were enabled in a great degree, to do so with impunity, from the fact that the restrictive laws (preventing people from laying out their money as they pleased) were odious to the great body of the people, as they are satisfied would be the case again, and to a greater extent, if a total exclusion of all that kind of speculation was attempted to be enforced. Your committee are of the opinion, that it would be unwise to break up a system that all candid men, they believe, admit to be as perfect as well can be provided, without any kind of security that the very next legislature may not again permit them, and in much worse form; and if we may judge from the manifestations before us, even at the present session, of the disposition of the people to avail themselves of this mode of raising money, and disposing of property, applications in abundance would be pressed, and most likely with success. The committee have come to their conclusion upon this subject, apart from the question of *revenue* (the consideration of which, in their opinion, more properly be-